

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2009

Contact: Heidi Doyle, Ranger
(530) 525-9528

Living History Day, July 25

Old Tahoe Elegance Returns to Ed Z'berg - Sugar Pine Point State Park

SUGAR PINE POINT, LAKE TAHOE – The elegance of summertime at the lakefront, in the high style of Old Lake Tahoe, returns to Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park on Living History Day, Saturday, July 25.

"This is our 26th Living History Day," said Ranger Heidi Doyle of the California Parks Department, "and already it is one of the larger summer events in the Tahoe Basin. There's fun for everyone in the family."

The public is invited to visit the park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy a variety of family activities for free. These include guided tours of Pine Lodge, nature walks through the park's 2,000 acres, use of its two-mile beach, music, games for children, and a display of antique cars and famous wooden boats. Parking is \$7 per car.

Pine Lodge, also known as the Ehrman mansion, is a three-story American Craftsman Style home built in 1903 for Isaias Hellman, a pioneering California banker. The estate is about 10 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89.

The Hellmans, and later their daughter Florence Hellman Ehrman, entertained family members and friends at Pine Lodge, during the summertime, for over 60 years. The estate remained closed to the public until Esther Lazard, daughter of Florence Ehrman and granddaughter of Isaias Hellman, sold the property to the state of California in 1965.

On Living History Day visitors walking through the mansion will watch volunteers in period costumes portray members of the Hellman-Ehrman family, as well as the family's butler, the upstairs maid and the cook. Admission is free for this event only.

Elders of the Washoe tribe, whose ancestors were the original residents of the Tahoe Basin, relate their people's history. Visitors can take guided nature hikes through the Edwin L. Z'berg Natural Preserve to the "highest lighthouse in the world" or along the Washoe Path of the Water Babies.

(more)

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>



Sugar Pine Point
May 29, 2009
Page 2

For younger visitors, Living History Day will offer a Kids Zone, with story telling, period dress up and the opportunity to create pictures of the lodge to take home as souvenirs.

Prominent local artists will demonstrate their talents on the grounds throughout the day. Bill Clausen, of Homewood, has created many watercolor paintings of Sugar Pine Point. Cathy McClelland, of Kings Beach, works mostly in acrylics, portraying bears and other lakeshore wildlife. Andy Skaff, of Tahoma, specializes in plein air genre landscapes.

Living History Day gives visitors their only opportunity to go inside General Phipps's Cabin. Frontiersman William Phipps came to Tahoe in 1860 to homestead 160 acres that eventually became part of Sugar Pine Point State Park. Guides playing Phipps's friends will tell stories of pioneer life as they demonstrate use of their tools and black-powder rifles.

Visitors will want to bring swimwear and towels to take advantage of the estate's beach. A bathhouse is available for changing clothes. Those who would like to picnic on the vast lawn overlooking the lake can bring their own lunch or, buy hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecued chicken and soft drinks from one of the participating vendors.

Further information and a full schedule of events can be obtained by contacting Ranger Heidi Doyle at the California State Parks Sierra District office, (530) 525-9528, or visiting the website for the event, <http://www.laketahoelivinghistory.com>.

###